



# ***WPD NEWS***

Wichita Police Department  
455 N. Main Wichita, KS 67202  
(316) 268-4340 FAX (316) 268-4566  
[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)

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**DATE:** January 24, 2007  
**CONTACT:** Capt. Joe Dessenberger  
Bureau Commander  
Patrol West  
316-337-9400

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **\*\* Media Advisory \*\***

### **Is It Real, Or Is It A Decoy?**

Speeders in west Wichita will have one more challenge beginning this week. In order to crack down on motorists who speed, the Patrol West Bureau is using a little creativity.

Patrol West is using a decoy to encourage drivers to slow down, according to Patrol West Bureau Commander Captain Joe Dessenberger. A mannequin wearing a Wichita Police Department uniform will sit in a WPD patrol car in west Wichita. The decoy's job is to lead drivers to believe that the "officer" is tracking their speed with radar.

Then, says Dessenberger, just as motorists get used to seeing the mannequin, a real officer running real radar will replace it.

"The objective is to get people to obey the speed limit. Last year, Wichita recorded 36 traffic fatalities, many of which were in the West Bureau. We're not

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above using a little creativity to get drivers to watch their speed. If using a decoy to encourage drivers to slow down saves lives, then we've done our job."

Dessenberger said using the mannequin to get drivers to obey speed limits is not the only idea his officers have come up with.

"We have other plans for west Wichita, too," said Dessenberger. "And, if it works out west, don't be surprised to see the decoy "patrolling" other parts of town where drivers have a heavy foot."

Dessenberger said the mannequin was donated to Patrol West by Kohl's department store.